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JUL 29 1969

(300) AMS BUDGET
NIGHT LEAD CIA-LETTER
BY LEWIS HAWKINS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON, JULY 29 (AP)-RICHARD HELMS EMERGED BRIEFLY TODAY FROM THE NEAR-ANONYMITY OF HIS JOB AS DIRECTOR OF THE CIA. HE APOLOGIZED FOR PRAISING AN EDITORIAL CRITICAL OF A SENATOR AND HAD HIS APOLOGY ACCEPTED.

DESPITE THE APOLOGY THERE WAS A DEMAND BY SEN. WAYNE MORSE, D-ORE., FOR HELMS'S RESIGNATION. IT DREW NO APPRECIABLE SUPPORT AND A 24-HOUR CAPITOL HILL TEMPEST SEEMED TO HAVE BLOWN ITSELF OUT.

BUT PRESUMABLY HELMS RETURNED TO THE GUARDED SECLUSION OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY'S COMMAND POST WITH A DETERMINATION TO READ HIS OUTGOING MAIL MORE CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING IT.

THE HULLABALLOO BEGAN YESTERDAY WHEN SEN. EUGENE J. MCCARTHY, D-MINN., CALLED THE SENATE'S ATTENTION TO A LETTER OVER HELMS'S NAME IN THE ST. LOUIS GLOBE-DEMOCRAT EXPRESSING PLEASURE OVER AN EDITORIAL IN THAT PAPER.

THE EDITORIAL SAID, IN EFFECT, THAT SEN. J. W. FULBRIGHT, D-ARK., WAS PROPERLY REBUKED BY THE SENATE WHEN IT TURNED BACK HIS EFFORT TO GIVE THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, OF WHICH HE IS CHAIRMAN, A ROLE IN SENATORIAL SUPERVISION OF THE CIA.

MCCARTHY'S DISCLOSURE BROUGHT MANY EXPRESSIONS OF DISAPPROVAL FROM THE ASSEMBLED SENATORS. THESE RANGED FROM ANGER AND DISMAY TO CONCERN OVER THE PROPRIETY OF SUCH A LETTER--AND THEY CAME FROM OPPONENTS AS WELL AS SUPPORTERS OF THE FULBRIGHT MOVE TO ENLARGE THE CIA COMMITTEE.

WITHIN HOURS HELMS HAD ACKNOWLEDGED THE LETTER, PHONED FULBRIGHT TO APOLOGIZE AND ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO EXPLAIN THE MATTER TO THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE TODAY.

HELMS SAT WITH THE COMMITTEE IN CLOSED SESSION FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS AND CAME OUT TO TELL REPORTERS:

"I REALIZE IT WAS A MISTAKE. I REGRET IT AND I HAVE APOLOGIZED."

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